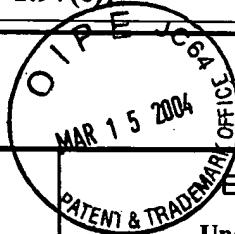


**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))**

Docket No.
15248

In Re Application Of: Junichi Muramatsu, et al.



Serial No.
10/067,607

Filing Date
February 15, 2002

Examiner
Unassigned

Group Art Unit
3731

Title: APPARATUS FOR LIGATING LIVING TISSUES

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

37 CFR 1.97(b)

- The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

37 CFR 1.97(c)

- The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:
 - the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

OR

- the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.
15248

In Re Application: Junichi Muramatsu, et al.

MAR 15 2004

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.

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3731

APPARATUS FOR LIGATING LIVING TISSUES

Payment of Fee

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

A check in the amount of _____ is attached.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-1013/SSMP as described below.

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I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on March 12, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.


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Dated: March 12, 2004

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No. 39,533

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Junichi Muramatsu, et al.

Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No.: 10/067,607

Art Unit: 3731

Filed: February 15, 2002

Docket: 15248

For: APPARATUS FOR LIGATING
LIVING TISSUES

Dated: March 12, 2004

Conf. No.: 5886

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. German Laid-Open Patent Publication DE 197 07 382 A1, dated September 4, 1997, corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 5,766,189;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 12, 2004

Dated: March 12, 2004


Thomas Spinelli

2. German Laid-Open Patent Publication DE 102 11 049 A1, dated October 2, 2002, corresponding to U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0133178;
3. German Laid-Open Patent Publication DE 100 11 292 A1, dated September 14, 2000, together with corresponding English-language abstract of Japanese Publication No. 2000254143;
4. International Publication No. WO 99/20183, dated April 29, 1999;
5. United States Patent No. 4,791,707, issued to Tucker, dated December 20, 1988; and
6. United States Patent No. 5,242,456, issued to Nash, et al., dated September 7, 1993.

The references were cited in an Office Action dated January 14, 2004 received from the German Patent Office. Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Office Action and an English translation thereof. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the Office Action.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of the official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,


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